

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-4, 6-23, 25, and 26 are the claims which have been examined in the application.

Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 15-17, 23, and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sutton (US Patent 7,179,232) in view of Twersky (US Patent 4,445,788) and Davis et al. (US Patent 5,571,097).

Claims 7-10, 12, and 14-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sutton in view of Twersky and Davis as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Shapira (US Patent 6,110,176).

Claims 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sutton in view of Twersky and Davis as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Morawski (US Publication 2004/0010236).

Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, Applicants hereby amend claims 2-4, 6-11, 14, 18, 21, 22 and 25, and cancel claims 1, 12, 13, 20 and 26. Applicants respectfully submit that the Application is in condition for immediate allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter of claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, in the interest of compact prosecution, Applicants hereby incorporate the subject matter of claims 12 and 13 into claim 11, placing claim 11 in condition for immediate allowance. Claims 14-19 and 23 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 11. Claims 2-4, 6-10, 21, 22 and 25 are hereby amended to be dependent from claim 11, and are also immediately allowable.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 15-17, 23, and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutton (US Patent 7,179,232) in view of Twersky (US Patent 4,445,788) and Davis et al. (US Patent 5,571,097).

Claims 7-10, 12, and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutton in view of Twersky and Davis as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Shapira (US Patent 6,110,176).

Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutton in view of Twersky and Davis as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Morawski (US Publication 2004/0010236).

Without conceding to the merits of the Examiner's rejections, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1, 12, 13, 20 and 26, and change the dependency of claims 2-4, 6-10, 21, 22 and 25 to be dependent from claim 11. In conjunction with the incorporation of claim 13 into claim 11 to place claim 11 in condition for immediate allowance, each of the outstanding rejections are now moot. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of each rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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